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October 25, 2010

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice: Applications of Comcast Corporation, General Electric Company and NBC Universal, Inc. For Consent to Assign Licenses or Transfer Control of Licensees, MB Docket 10-56

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In compliance with Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, the undersigned submits this *ex parte* notice relating to the above-captioned proceeding.

On October 22, 2010, FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps and his Media Advisor, Joshua Cinelli, toured the facilities of WJLA-TV / NewsChannel 8 / TBD.com / POLITICO. During their visit, they met with Robert Allbritton, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Allbritton Communications Company, Frederick J. Ryan, Jr., President, William Lord, Station Manager, Claire Magee, Assistant General Counsel and the undersigned. Among the topics discussed was the application by Comcast to acquire NBC Universal and the accompanying potentially grave implications on competition and the public interest in the Washington market.

Specifically, the reported impending launch of an all-local news channel by WRC-TV, the NBC-owned and operated station in Washington, was highlighted along with the potential for discriminatory treatment in favor of that station as against NewsChannel 8. The incentives to favor its own programming will exist as to rates paid to NewsChannel 8, channel placement, tier carriage, Internet applications and sales activities leading to the very real possibility of the loss of a locally-owned, independent news voice in this critical market. Possible conditions to the approval of the acquisition were discussed, ranging from divestiture of the owned stations in markets where Comcast has a significant presence to enforceable requirements for non-discriminatory carriage terms at marketplace rates.

Additionally, the combined sales force of the Comcast-owned "Spotlight" sales organization with the WRC-TV local sales group was also discussed, with particular reference to Spotlight's current sales representation of both the Cox cable system in Fairfax County, Virginia, and the Verizon FiOS system throughout the Washington market, giving it unprecedented power in the television sales arena. That position will dramatically increase with the acquisition of a sales force representing the NBC station *and* its new local news channel, further exacerbating the anxiety over both the horizontal and vertical aspects of the Comcast – NBC Universal combination. The

Commissioner was urged to take the time carefully to assess the critical implications on competition and independent news voices in the market absent significant, enforceable protective conditions.

In accordance with the Commission's rules this *ex parte* notice is being filed electronically in the above-referenced docket. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Jerald N. Fritz

Senior Vice President, Legal and Strategic Affairs

Honorable Michael J. Copps

cc: